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Summary record of the 32nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 8 June 2015, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Oh Joon (Vice-President) ..... (Republic of Korea)

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Social and human rights questions

(b) Social development (E/2015/3 and E/2015/26)

1. **Ms. Bas** (Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 (A/70/61-E/2015/3), said that family-oriented policies and programmes that supported intergenerational solidarity and cooperation contributed to the achievement of development goals. She stressed the need for relevant policies aimed at promoting the well-being of the family and its individual members, and for laws promoting gender equality and better protection of vulnerable family members from violence. The international community should avoid attempts to define the family, given the varying contexts.

2. Her Division was ready to assist Member States in further advancing family-centred policies and programmes. Reports on thematic issues such as recent demographic changes and their impact on families, gender equality and children's rights within families would be useful to that end.

3. **Ms. Miculescu** (Observer for Romania), speaking in her capacity as Chair of the Commission for Social Development, said that, during the fifty-third session of the Commission , members had stressed the continued relevance of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and had reaffirmed their commitment to fulfilling its goals. A variety of issues had been raised, and lessons learned and best practices explored. Equality was no longer seen as the product of market forces alone; persistent and emerging challenges required a change of course in social development. Greater knowledge on how to address social development challenges should support the transition to the post-2015 development agenda with the well-being of people at its core.

4. Broad-based multi-stakeholder consultations were increasingly being used to address interlinkages between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. However, some interlinkages, for example, between poverty and environmental sustainability, decent work and economic and environmental sustainability, or climate change and social sustainability, had not yet been fully explored or sufficiently addressed. Economic growth alone would be insufficient to achieve sustainable development. In contrast, comprehensive and well-designed social policies had proven effective in reducing poverty and inequality and in maximizing opportunities for all to participate in productive economic activities. A holistic and integrated social policy strengthened human capacity and resilience by improving access to basic services and productive resources, enhancing skills and mitigating risks of economic and environmental shocks. Political will was seen as a contributing factor to the establishment of a comprehensive and coordinated approach at the national level, while a human-rights-based approach was considered critical to people-centred development. That should be reflected in the sustainable development goals.

5. During its preparation, the Bureau had made an effort to align the work of the Commission with that of the Economic and Social Council. A general discussion that emphasized the need to involve young people in political decisions and improve the strategies and structures to successfully and sustainably strengthen youth participation had been held. Various policy initiatives for older persons and the need to promote and protect their rights had also been discussed. Several Member States had emphasized the critical role of the family in society in general, and social development in particular, as well as the need to support families through effective national policies. A discussion between the Commission and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities had focused on the development component of her mandate.

6. Members of the Commission had discussed its future role in better reflecting the interests of the social development community, including the potential provision of a framework for monitoring and accountability. The following year, the Commission would adopt a negotiated outcome on the priority theme of the fifty-third session and analyse its methods of work. Anticipated changes to those methods of work would allow the Commission to further strengthen the work of the Council and respond, within its mandate, to the new framework within which all development

partners would seek to achieve the sustainable development goals.

General discussion

7. **Mr. Ríos Sánchez** (Observer for Mexico) said that Mexico had been an active participant in the fifty-third session of the Commission for Social Development. The Commission, largely uninvolved in the post-2015 development agenda negotiation process, should work to increase its effectiveness, and contribute to and follow up on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda with a view to achieving sustainable and inclusive development for all. The risk that the Commission would fall into irrelevance made it necessary to consider how to transform it within the context of the reform of the Economic and Social Council.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-third session (E/2015/26-E/CN.5/2015/9)

8. **The President** invited the Council to take action on three draft resolutions and two draft decisions contained in chapter I, sections A, B and C, of the report (E/2015/26-E/CN.5/2015/9).

Section A

Draft resolution I: Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Draft resolution II: Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 development agenda

Draft resolution III: Modalities for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

9. *Draft resolutions I, II and III were adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision: Report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fourth session

10. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Section C

Draft decision 53/101: Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

11. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to confirm the nomination of Saraswathi Menon (India), Ping Huang (China) and Patricia Schulz (Switzerland) to the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

12. *It was so decided.*

The meeting was suspended at 3.40 p.m. and resumed at 4 p.m.

Coordination, programme and other questions

(c) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2015/58)

Economic and environmental questions

(j) Women and development (E/2015/27-E/CN.6/2015/10)

Social and human rights questions

(a) Advancement of women (E/2015/27-E/CN.6/2015/10 and E/2015/67)

13. **Ms. Puri** (Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2015/58), said that 168 countries had presented reports under the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The review of the global report during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women had revealed the continued exclusion of most marginalized women and girls from the otherwise unacceptably slow progress made. The review was indispensable to the definition of the post-2015 development framework, and had led the United Nations system and Member States to recommit to systematic gender mainstreaming, investment, results and accountability.

14. Member States had requested United Nations system and UN-Women support for their implementation efforts. Accordingly, UN-Women was working to ensure that gender was reflected throughout

the legally binding instrument under negotiation within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and was seeking funding for gender equality commitments within the framework of the third United Nations Conference on Financing for Development. United Nations entities should be fit for purpose, supportive of Member State implementation efforts, and capable of providing substantive support for accountability mechanisms.

15. A total of 62 entities, departments and offices within the United Nations system had consistently reported on their implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; in the Action Plan's third year of implementation, progress had been achieved in 14 of the 15 performance indicators. In 2014, 59 per cent of all reporting entities had gender policies, with an additional 9 entities committed to completing policies by the end of 2015. However, much remained to be done before the Action Plan's 2017 deadline, as requirements had been exceeded in only a few instances and performance remained poor for many indicators, including capacity assessment, gender architecture and parity, and resource tracking and allocation. No entity had exceeded performance requirements for the gender architecture and parity indicator, with data revealing that, at the current rate of progress, it would take approximately 25 years to achieve parity at some professional levels. It was also critical to track financial resources.

16. United Nations country teams were found to have made progress in mainstreaming gender in common programming processes; however, the mandate of UN-Women must also be strengthened in coordination within country teams and at regional levels to improve gender mainstreaming on the ground. UN-Women had received more requests for support, but the lack of human resources in critical programme areas had often negatively impacted programme results.

17. Greater attention to strategic planning and monitoring, including technical support to implementing partners, was needed in respect of United Nations peacebuilding and development frameworks. It was important to ensure national ownership, multi-stakeholder and civil society engagement and the embedding of accountability in local institutions. Resource mobilization was another significant challenge; fulfilling gender equality commitments in the post-2015 context would require robust and adequate financing. Predictable and substantial funding for large-scale gender equality programming across sectors and themes would be critical to countering the ongoing challenge of understaffing and underfunding. Gender-responsive interventions required dedicated financial resources, including through joint resource mobilization and commitment by donors and programme countries.

18. Monitoring and data collection methods required further improvement in order to enhance the United Nations system's evidence-based analytical programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of its operational activities for development. Strengthened capacity would also be needed to address remaining gaps and challenges, and to comply fully and effectively with the Action Plan. UN-Women looked forward to Member State support in that regard, as experience had shown that the commitment of resources yielded the best results.

19. **Mr. Aguiar de Patriota** (Brazil), speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, said that the Commission's fifty-ninth session had been the culmination of a two-year review process that confirmed both the importance that all stakeholders attributed to gender equality, empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls and the disappointing reality that no country had achieved gender equality. Governments had pledged to take additional measures to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

20. Participants at the session had presented solutions that had been effective in amending laws and policies, changing attitudes that perpetuated discrimination against women and girls, increasing investment in gender equality and women's empowerment, strengthening institutions and accountability frameworks to ensure delivery of results for women and girls, and building partnerships that would overcome structural barriers to gender equality and end unequal power relations between women and men. Those solutions must be scaled up and replicated in order to attain gender equality and the empowerment of women by 2030.

21. The Commission continued to refine its methods of work through its practice since updating them in 2006. At its fifty-ninth session, it had embraced three key elements in its activities, namely, giving added

impetus to the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action by, inter alia, introducing a ministerial segment in its sessions and strengthening the impact of its review theme; contributing to the follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda as it related to gender equality and the empowerment of women, and to the work of the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development; and continuing its contribution to the Council's work by reporting on gender-equality and empowerment-of-women aspects of the agreed main theme of the Council.

22. The Commission was committed to strengthening existing opportunities for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which had a vital role to play in its work. Its new methods of work enhanced the participation of NGOs by allocating time for them to deliver statements during panels, interactive dialogues and in the general discussion, taking into account geographical distribution. In conclusion, the Commission urged the Council to insist that when the high-level political forum met under its auspices, gender equality was explicitly addressed in the review and follow-up across the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals.

Action on draft resolutions and decisions contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-ninth session (E/2015/27-E/CN.6/2015/10)

23. **The President** said that action on draft resolution E/2015/L.11 entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system" would be deferred in order to allow the Secretariat additional time to complete its review of programme budget implications. Following informal consultations, action on draft resolution I entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report, would be deferred. He invited the Council to take action on draft resolution II.

Draft resolution II: Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

24. *Draft resolution II was adopted.*

25. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision contained in chapter I, section B, of the report.

Draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-ninth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixtieth session of the Commission"

26. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Economic and environmental questions

(l) Transport of dangerous goods (E/2015/66)

27. **Ms. Simioni** (Social Affairs Officer, Regional Commissions New York Office), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (E/2015/66) on behalf of Mr. Kervella, Chief of the Dangerous Goods and Special Cargoes Section, Economic Commission for Europe, said that the first part of the report contained a draft resolution prepared by the Committee for adoption by the Council. The second part contained detailed information on the implementation of resolution 2013/25. In that regard, the Secretary-General had published the eighteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations*, Amendment No. 2 to the *Manual of Tests and Criteria* and the fifth revised edition of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* in all six United Nations languages.

28. The International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Organization for International Carriage by Rail and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) had already amended their respective legal instruments on the transport of dangerous goods to give effect to the recommended new provisions. Many countries had also updated their legislation applicable to domestic transport accordingly. As little information was available on the implementation of the Recommendations by countries that did not participate in the Committee's work or in that of the ECE Inland Transport Committee, the Secretary-General should collect more information about the status of implementation of the Recommendations worldwide for transport by road, rail or inland waterways in the same manner as IMO and ICAO did for maritime and air transport. In particular, the Secretary-General should seek information from all Member States about the national

competent authorities entitled to certify that a packaging design type met the United Nations construction and performance recommendations and might bear the United Nations certification mark.

29. The secretariat of the Committee of Experts had collected information on the implementation of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals*, with some 68 countries — including the major producers of chemical products — amending their legislation to give effect to the System. In 2015, the transitional period in which the chemical industry could still comply with previous national legislation would come to an end. In addition, many capacity-building activities supported by Governments or the private sector had been carried out by a wide range of United Nations and other organizations.

30. The third part of the report focused on the work of the Committee of Experts during the 2013-2014 biennium and on its new recommendations, while the fourth part comprised a programme of work and meeting schedule for the 2015-2016 biennium. The Council was invited to approve the programme of work by adopting the draft resolution contained in section I of the report.

Action on the recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

31. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution contained in section I of the report.

Draft resolution entitled "Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals"

32. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.